AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (original): A tomographic image processing method for carrying out image processing on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the method comprising the step of:

carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data so as to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

2.   (original): A tomographic image processing method as defined in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

carrying out frequency enhancing processing on the image data having been subjected to the dynamic range compression processing.

3.   (original) A tomographic image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the apparatus comprising:

dynamic range compression processing means for carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data in order to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

4.   (original): A tomographic image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 3,

further comprising:

frequency enhancing processing means for carrying out frequency enhancing processing

on the image data that have been subjected to the dynamic range compression processing.

5.   (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a

computer to execute a tomographic image processing method for carrying out image processing

on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the program comprising the procedure of:

carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data so as to compress

a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

6.   (original): A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 5, the

program further comprising the procedure of:

carrying out frequency enhancing processing on the image data having been subjected to

the dynamic range compression processing.

7.   (new): The tomographic image processing method as defined in claim 2, wherein

the frequency enhancing processing is multiple frequency enhancing processing.

8.   (new): The tomographic image processing apparatus as defined in claim 4,

wherein the frequency enhancing processing is multiple frequency enhancing processing.

9.   (new): The computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 6, wherein

the frequency enhancing processing is multiple frequency enhancing processing.